



# Comoros

## Country

The Comoros, officially the Union of the Comoros is a [sovereign archipelago island nation](#) in the [Indian Ocean](#), located at the northern end of the [Mozambique Channel](#) off the eastern coast of [Africa](#), between northeastern [Mozambique](#) and northwestern [Madagascar](#). Other countries near the Comoros are [Tanzania](#) to the northwest and the [Seychelles](#) to the northeast. Its capital is [Moroni](#), on [Grande Comore](#).

**IDHR** representatives were honored yesterday to meet with Colonel [Assoumani Azali](#), who was the President of the [Union of Comoros](#) from 2001 to 2005. Mr. Azali requested the meeting to learn about IDHR and our role in protecting Illinois residents from discrimination by enforcing the Illinois Human Rights Act. Mr. Azali was invited to Chicago through the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program, and the meeting was arranged with the help of WorldChicago, a not-for-profit membership organization that assists guests of the U.S. government who visit the Chicago area from abroad. Mr. Azali restored democracy to the Union of Comoros in 2001 after the country experienced a series of coups, and is credited with leading national reconciliation efforts and unifying the three islands of the Union.



Mr. Azali complimented the hard work of the Department, and indicated he has great respect for the rule of law, stating at one point, “the law is life.” He was very interested that IDHR is able to resolve so many of its cases via settlements and mediation. When asked about his country, Mr. Azali shared that one of the issues Comoros is struggling with is economic inequality, as well as the cultural legacy of its 100 years under colonialization.

Mr. Azali was joined by his son, Nour El Fath Azali, who is attending school in Boston. Mr. Azali’s resume indicates that he speaks French, Arabic, Basic English, and Shikomori, a native language. The meeting was conducted in English and French, with the help of an interpreter. The Department was pleased to mention to Mr. Azali that we provide materials about our programs in 14 languages, including French and Arabic.